

**A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *MIAGRAMMOPES* O. P.  
CAMBRIDGE, 1870 (ARANEAE: ULOBORIDAE) FROM INDIA**

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ABSTRACT: *Miagrammopes apostrophus* sp. nov. recorded from Gorumara National Park, West Bengal, India is described and illustrated.

KEY WORDS: Taxonomy, spider, Uloboridae, *Miagrammopes apostrophus*, new species, Gorumara National Park, India.

Hackled web spiders (Uloboridae) are globally represented by 266 species under 18 genera (Platnick, 2012). This cosmopolitan family includes 22 Indian species belonging to 5 genera (Sebastian & Peter, 2009).

Nine of the 22 species are known to compose the genus *Miagrammopes* O. P. Cambridge, 1870 of India (Cambridge, 1870; Simon, 1889; Tikader, 1971; Raychaudhuri, 2004; Sebastian & Peter 2009; Platnick, 2012). Indian *Miagrammopes* are endemic with the exception of *M. thwaitesi* O. P. Cambridge (known from Sri Lanka also) (Platnick, 2012).

During our faunastic survey (2007-2010) for the spiders of the reserve forests of Dooars, West Bengal, we came across with a *Miagrammopes* species from Gorumara National park, West Bengal, India (for details visit [www.westbengalforest.gov.in](http://www.westbengalforest.gov.in)). The species after critical examination is considered as new to science and accordingly described and illustrated. [Note: We apologise for the erroneous mention of the Reg. no. for the species *Arctosa quinquedens* Dhali et al., 2012 (Mun. Ent. Zool., 7 (2): 1199-1213). The no. should read as EZC 0030-12].

#### **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

Uloborids were collected and preserved following Tikader (1987) and Barrion & Litsinger (1995). The material were studied using Stereo Zoom Binocular Microscope, model Zeiss SV-11. The measurements indicated in the text are in millimeters, made with an eye piece graticule. Leg measurements are shown as: total length (femur, patella, tibia, metatarsus, tarsus).

*Abbreviations used:* CL= Cephalothorax length, CW= Cephalothorax width, AL= Abdominal length, AW= Abdominal width, TL= Total length, PME= Posterior median eyes, PLE= Posterior lateral eyes; GNP= Gorumara National Park, WB= West Bengal.

**TAXONOMY****Family Uloboridae Thorell, 1869****Genus *Miagrammopes* O. P. Cambridge, 1870*****Miagrammopes apostrophus* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 1-6 &amp; 7)

**Type material:** Holotype: female, Murti, GNP, WB, India, 21.ix.2009, coll. S. Sen; Paratype: 1 female, Murti, GNP, WB, India, 21.ix.2009, coll. D. Raychaudhuri.

**Type deposition:** Entomology Laboratory, Department of Zoology, University of Calcutta, registration no. **EZC 0031-12**.

**Description:**

Female (Holotype):

CL=1.53, CW=0.89, AL=3.67, AW=0.96, TL=5.20.

Cephalothorax (fig. 1) off white, elongate, rectangular, cephalic area medially raised, deeply depressed below the PME, appearing 'C' like pits, medially with a narrow 'v' shaped marking, thoracic area flat, with a posterior, basal, yellowish white band, fovea conspicuous, broad, clothed with fine hairs. Eyes 4, pearly white, ringed with black, arranged in a posterior recurved row, anterior row absent, PME largest, laterals on tubercles. Inter ocular distance: PME-PME=0.42, PLE-PME=0.14, PLE-PLE=0.82. Clypeus yellowish, wider than long. Chelicerae (fig. 2) yellowish white, only promargin with a minute tooth, fangs brown, curved. Both maxillae and labium (fig. 3) yellowish white, apical margins with small hairs, maxillae longer than wide, apically pointed and posteromedially fused with labium, labium longer than wide, apically lanceolate, posteromedially notched, basally fused with sternum. Sternum (fig. 3) yellowish, longer than wide, divided into 2 unequal halves between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> coxa. Legs yellowish, long, clothed with hairs, metatarsus IV compressed, throughout with a row of calamistrum. Leg measurements: I 6.46 (2.41, 0.35, 1.41, 1.88, 0.41); II 3.21 (1.23, 0.41, 0.82, 0.52, 0.23); III 2.44 (0.82, 0.23, 0.58, 0.58, 0.23); IV 5.51(1.94, 0.35, 1.88, 1.05, 0.29). Leg formula 1423.

Abdomen (figs. 1 & 4) elongate, cylindrical, dorsum with silvery reticulations all over, basally with a median grey longitudinal marking, triradiate at posterior tip, midlongitudinally with 3 pairs of sigilla (muscular apodemes) arranged on either side of the grey marking; venter with silvery reticulations all over except epigynal and basal area of spinnerets, 2 yellowish brown, parallel, midlongitudinal band between epigastric furrow and spinnerets, spinnerets yellowish, cribellum brown, broad.

Epigynum - Internal genitalia (figs. 5-6): Spermatheca broadly ';' shaped, atrium large, copulatory ducts long, 's' shaped, copulatory openings small, circular, fertilization ducts small, outwardly curved.

**Distribution:** India: West Bengal (so far known only from the type locality).

**Etymology:** The species name is derived from the 'turning away' of spermatheca.

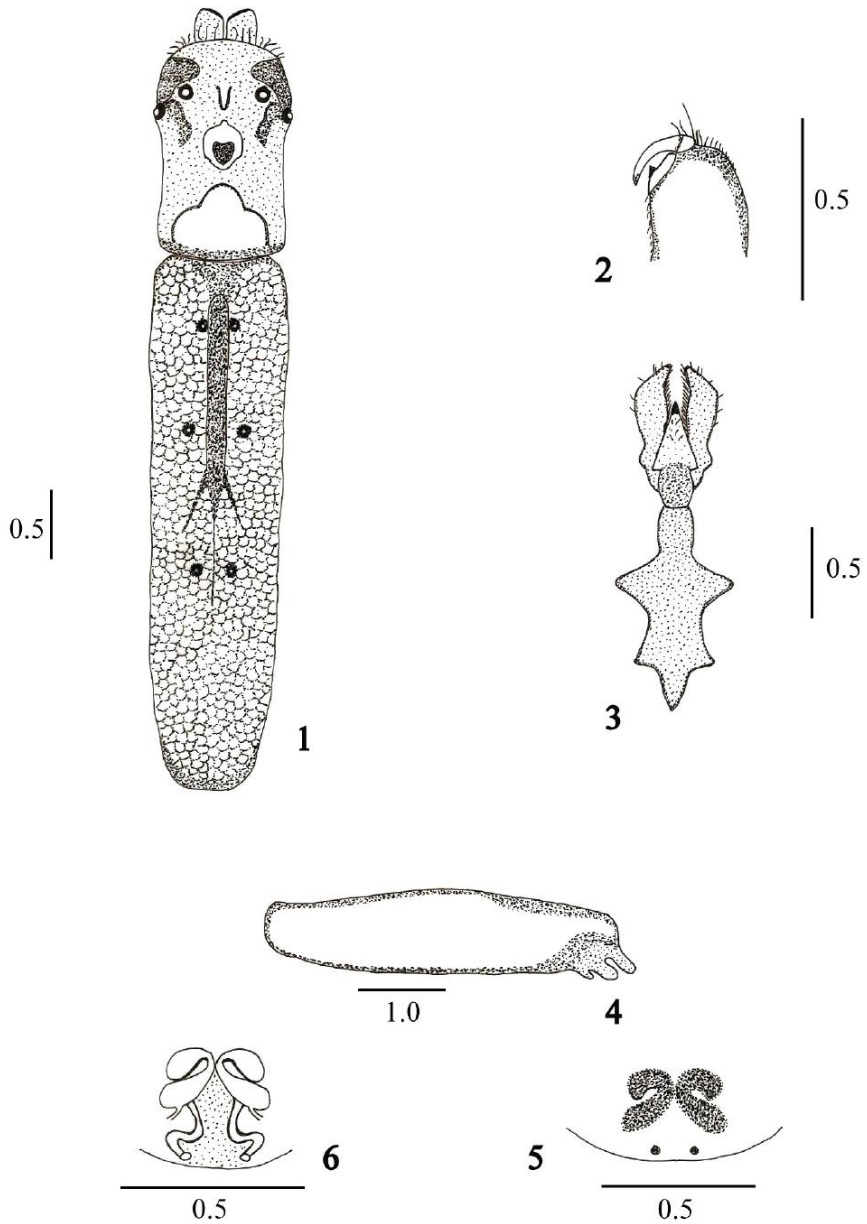
**Remarks:** The species appears to be closely allied to *Miagrammopes sutherlandi* Tikader 1971, but can be separated by i) spermatheca broadly ‘;’ shaped, atrium large, copulatory ducts long, ‘s’ shaped, (spermatheca and copulatory ducts never so, atrium small in *M. sutherlandi*); ii) cephalothorax with a narrow ‘v’ shaped marking between the PME (cephalothorax with ‘U’ shaped marking much below the PME in *M. sutherlandi*); iii) thoracic area with a posterior basal yellowish white band (such band completely absent in *M. sutherlandi*); iv) abdomen basally with a median grey longitudinal marking, triradiate at posterior tip, midlongitudinally with 3 pairs of sigilla (abdomen with a midlongitudinal brown, broad band extending from base to apex and without any sigilla in *M. sutherlandi*). Such differences appear to justify the erection of a new species.

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Figures 1-6. *Miagrammopes apostrophus* sp. nov. female (Holotype): 1. Cephalothorax and abdomen, dorsal view; 2. Chelicerae, ventral view; 3. Maxillae, labium and sternum, ventral view; 4. Abdomen, lateral view; 5. Epigynum, ventral view; 6. Internal genitalia, dorsal view.



Figure 7. Photographic image: General habitus of *Miagrammopes apostrophus* sp. nov., female (Holotype).